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June 11, 2012

Hon. Christine C. Quinn
Speaker
The Council of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Quinn:

I received your letter of June 11, concerning the recent report in the New York Times which details sexual abuse at the Horace Mann School in the Bronx. The District Attorney shares your concern over these allegations.

At the moment, we have begun to address the report in several ways. First, we will reach out to the Horace Mann community, and encourage them to report incidents of such behavior, whether they are within or outside of the statute of limitations. We may ask for your assistance in this effort. Second, we have asked the school for a copy of their current procedures concerning sexual abuse, which was referenced in the article, and which they have agreed to provide.

Third, insofar as the reporting of such incidents is concerned, we have begun review of the relevant statutes, NY Social Services Law § 413, and NY Education Law §§ 1125-26. It appears that while the former applies to private schools, it requires reporting of acts of child abuse by parents and guardians, while the latter, which does require reporting of abusive acts by teachers and other educational staff, applies only to public schools. This may require legislative action.

We will continue to look into this matter. Thank you for your concern, and please feel to contact us if you wish further information.

Very truly yours